

Testimonials for Babylon

“Babylon is an amazing and powerful show that shows in a very vivid way the reality that the immigrant and refugee community live now days. It also exposes the negative narrative and the lack of understanding towards such an important issue from those who had never been confronted with being displaced by poverty, war and violence. What I appreciated the most was that it revealed the resilience a person finds within her/his self when confronted with this issues and takes the determination of leaving what once was called home in order to save her/his life and the life of her/his loved ones.”

-Damaris Velasquez
Co-Founder and Director of Programs, Agencia ALPHA, Boston

“Babylon beautifully and poignantly portrays the journeys and tribulations of the refugees and asylum seekers whom we care for. Beyond that, the show highlights the tensions in our society around these issues, and the challenge of overcoming fear and bigotry. I was impressed at how vividly the performers, through the puppets and through music, capture the shared humanity and injustice that motivate our work and are so critical to share with others. ”

-James S. Miller, MD MPH
MGH Global Medicine/MGH Asylum Clinic

“As a longtime admirer of Sandglass Theater, I very much look forward to working with the company again, bringing their timely piece *Babylon* to Portland, Maine. As a city with a significant community of refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers – *Babylon* will resonate deeply. Sandglass’ puppetry is exquisite both in form and the powerful emotion it evokes. As The Village Voice once remarked: “That Bass can conjure so much history and soul out of a two-foot puppet is its own mystery....” I whole-heartedly agree. Again and again I am also awed by the sensitivity and nuance Sandglass brings to difficult subjects. This expertise will be brought to bear once again in the telling of the immigrant story. At its core, this is a story about the endurance of the human spirit. However, we also recognize how the topic of immigration has become charged and politicized. We need Sandglass, the power of their art, and the magic of puppetry to have this conversation in our community.”

-Aimée M. Petrin
Executive & Artistic Director, Portland Ovations

“Anoche participé en una conversación con organizaciones de ayuda a refugiados y organizadores después de la magnífica obra *Babylon: Journeys of Refugees* organizada por el Puppet Showplace Theater y el Sandglass Theater. Todavía pueden ver la obra en el Modern Theatre at Suffolk University hoy y mañana sábado. Muy recomendable, una obra impactante y preciosa al mismo tiempo. Es una recopilación de historias de refugiados representadas con títeres que nos enseña lo absurdo que es temer y odiar a personas que escapan de horrores en sus países, cuando cualquier persona haría lo mismo en su lugar. Nadie abandona su casa y deja atrás todo lo que conoce sin tener motivos de peso.”

-Julio Del Olmo
Del Olmo Law, Boston

Translation:

*Last night I participated in a conversation with refugee aid organizations and organizers after the magnificent work *Babylon: Journeys of Refugees* organized by Puppet Showplace Theater and Sandglass Theater. You can still see the work at the Modern Theatre at Suffolk University today and tomorrow Saturday. Highly recommended, a shocking and beautiful work at the same time. It's a compilation of stories of refugees represented with puppets that teach us how absurd it is to fear and hate people who escape from horrors in their countries, when anyone would do the same instead. No one leaves his house and leaves behind everything he knows without having weighty reasons.*

Later:

“Thank you very much for making my office a small part of this powerful show. I really liked its approach, the way hard questions and conflicts are presented to the viewer to witness in a non-judgmental way, even if the answers are obvious for many. I do hope that many can attend the show and become more sensitive to the harsh journey that refugees and migrants have to endure to do what everyone would do in their place: survive. Good luck and thank you again for this experience.”

-Julio Del Olmo
Del Olmo Law, Boston

“Go see this powerful and moving performance from Sandglass Theater presented by the Puppet Showplace Theater. It is poignant and touching, reflecting not only the current issues of today, but our own humanity in how we as a society deal with them. We love stories. We have been telling them for thousands of years-- through word of mouth, music, song, dance, and theater. Puppetry incorporates all of these elements and transports audiences into another world. Sometimes the tales are fantastical, daring adventures from far away lands. Then, sometimes it is about us. People. The stories of the everyday are varied. They are joyous, sad, exciting, and sometimes terrifying. My story is not your story. My battle is not your battle. Some struggles endured, I have not experienced, but I can offer empathy to feel them with you...We share stories, because we want to make a connection. We want to feel. It makes us alive and makes us human. When we stop and listen, we become a part of the process; and, hopefully through this journey find unity in the shared experience of the story.”

-Heather Balchunas
Somerville Arts Council

“Babylon: Journey of Refugees is, in part, a religious conversation. As the University Chaplain and Director of the Interfaith Center at Suffolk University in Boston, these conversations are a daily occurrence with students, staff and faculty who are impacted personally and communally by the existence of the displaced and marginalized. Babylon and exile are consistently a theological and a practical concern in the Interfaith Center. The play focuses the dialogue and raises new questions for any community that is also engaged with these issues of immigration.”

-The Reverend Amy L. Fisher
Suffolk University Chaplain, Director, Interfaith Center